REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 were allowed. By virtue of the above amendment, claims 8-23 have been cancelled.

In view of the above-mentioned amendment to the claims, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been overcome. As herein amended, only allowed claims 1-7 remain pending in the present application. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants note that the status of the present application is after final rejection and that Applicants ordinarily do not have a right to continue prosecution of an application once a final rejection has been issued. However, since Applicants are merely cancelling the non-allowed claims, which is provided for in 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the present Response and allowance of the present application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

The present response does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search, nor does the present response raise the question of new matter. The only claims now pending in the application are allowed claims. Allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

The grammatical construction "one of [A] and [B]" in the present claims (for example, in claim 3) is not conjunctive, and has always been intended by Applicants to have the same meaning as "[A] or [B]," in which the "or" is not an exclusive "or".

Applicants reserve the right to submit broader claims in a continuing application. Should such broader claims be allowed while nevertheless omitting features recited in the present allowed claims, then such broader claims must be deemed to lack such omitted P21185.A10

features because such omitted features would not be necessary for patentability.

Should an Extension of Time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

Will E. Lyll Ros, No. Bruce H. Bernstein 41, 568

Reg. No. 29,027

March 22, 2004 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191